

NEWS

From the Office of

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Mitzelfelt Addresses Southern California Leadership Council on Local Challenges

LOS ANGELES – (Photos attached) San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Brad Mitzelfelt today joined three former California governors along with other Southern California county supervisors and business leaders in discussing the challenges facing California businesses and local governments during a special meeting of the Southern California Leadership Council.

“Among these leaders there is general agreement that between the economy, California’s harsh regulatory climate, and harmful decisions from Sacramento, our state and region face daunting challenges that we must work hard to overcome,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt, who addressed the group during the meeting. “This is an important step in identifying those challenges and creating a strategy for turning our state around.”

The Southern California Leadership Council is a public policy partnership created to provide regional business leadership on issues critical to economic vitality and job creation in Southern California. Founded in 2005, the Council is made up of business and community leaders from throughout the seven counties of Southern California along with three former California governors. The meeting Thursday was a round table discussion to get leaders in county government and business together to outline the issues they are facing.

Supervisor Mitzelfelt addressed the group and discussed several issues facing county government, including prison realignment, which has forced counties to accept responsibility for thousands of prisoners and parolees. “I am convinced this is resulting in increased crime,” Supervisor Mitzelfelt said.

Uncertain and limited funding for infrastructure is another critical issue.

The state’s elimination of redevelopment funding was also discussed by Supervisor Mitzelfelt and the other supervisors. Earlier today, he participated in a ceremony marking the development of a new industrial rail spur in Hesperia that promises to bring 400 jobs to the High Desert. That project relied in part on \$5.6 million from the former Hesperia Redevelopment Agency. The ability of local jurisdictions to build major, job-generating infrastructure projects in the future is in doubt, he said.

“Redevelopment was California’s only economic development tool for local job creation, and simply eliminating it is not acceptable,” Supervisor Mitzelfelt said.

(From left) Orange County Supervisor Shawn Nelson, San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, former Governors George Deukmejian, Pete Wilson and Gray Davis, and Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione.



Vice Chairman Brad Mitzelfelt, representing the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, discusses issues facing California counties with former Governor Pete Wilson after the Southern California Leadership Council board meeting in Los Angeles April 19.

